

Callington
Cornwall
Feb. 21. 06

Dear Sir

I herewith beg to enclose a
copy of my Annual Report.

Yours faithfully
H. Davis Junr
M.D.

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Callington

Callington Cornwall
Feb. 6th 1906

Mr Chairman & Gentlemen

In accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board I have now to present my Annual Report on the Health & Sanitary Condition of your District for the year 1905.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered in the district was 39—19 males and 20 females; the number of deaths, 35—14 males and 21 females; natural increase, 4. Assuming the population to be what it was at the last census, viz., 1,714 the birth-rate would be 22.7 and the death-rate 20.4 per 1,000. In the previous year there were 39 births and 27 deaths; natural increase, 12. Three deaths occurred under 1 year, 1 death between 1 and 15, and 17 over 65. Eleven deaths were recorded as being due to diseases of the respiratory system, viz., 2 phthisis, 5 bronchitis and 4 inflammation and pleurisy; there were 5 deaths from apoplexy, 2 heart disease, 1 cancer, 1 suicide and 15 from various causes; in the second inquest case "natural causes" was certified as the cause of death. Fifty-eight cases of zymotic disease (all scarlet fever) were notified during the year. The high birth-rate is well maintained, being rather above the average county rate, which is significant in consideration of the general decline of births, and is curiously the same as the preceding year. The death-rate is exceptionally high, diseases of the respiratory system with influenza are the cause of nearly one-third of the deaths; and five cases of apoplexy is remarkable; but the redeeming feature is, undoubtedly, the old age mortality; 13 deaths occurred at ages over 70, of these five were over 80, the oldest being 97.

EPIDEMICS.

The past year has been characterised by extensive epidemic sickness in the surrounding districts, and as Callington has not escaped the general lot, the record of the year will, of necessity, compare unfavourably with those of the previous unusually healthy periods. Influenza made its appearance in January, and was a factor in the cause of death in three cases. Measles came in March and April, causing a large amount of sickness, and it became necessary to close both elementary schools. An outbreak of scarlet fever commenced in May, and the infection being conveyed to the Wesleyan School threatened to spread rapidly. Every precaution was taken, patients were isolated at their homes (there being no isolation hospital), the Wesleyan School closed, and the disinfectants used were carbolic acid, izal and formalin. Although a distinct check to the epidemic was effected, four or five cases have been notified each month up to the present time. I am glad to say that not a single death resulted from either measles or scarlet fever. Small-pox so near as Plymouth, has necessitated increased vigilance; frequent inspections of the common lodging-house have been made; tramps—many from Plymouth—have been unusually numerous, and a shed has been secured, which could be converted into a temporary isolation hospital at short notice. Vaccination is fairly satisfactory, only 5 per cent. of the cases obtained exemption, against 8 per cent. of the whole vaccination area, and I think it is to be much regretted that even these few exist. There have been no prosecutions.

SEWERAGE.

The wall sewer from the Commercial Hotel to the lane opposite the Wesleyan Chapel has been replaced by a 9in. pipe sewer, having two iron street gullies, a ventilation shaft and inspection chamber. The main sewer outfall has needed extension of the pipes; on leaving the pipe sewer the sewage continued in an open

channel by a hedge, which, being gradually undermined, was liable to destruction; the pipe sewer has therefore been prolonged a distance of 72ft., as far as the hedge extended, 18in. pipes being used. On the Launceston-road some houses are in the course of building. Principally for this reason it has been considered advisable to extend the sewerage system to accommodate them; therefore a new sewer has been laid from Mr. Bennett's house to Mrs. Trevithick's cowshed, constructed in two sections, each as near a straight line as possible, the whole sewer provided with three iron gullies, two inspection chambers and one ventilation shaft. Judgment has been exercised in selecting the side of the road easiest of excavation, having due regard for what may become building sites, thereby securing maximum efficiency at minimum cost. The sewer in Trafalgar-street has been frequently blocked, owing to structural defects for which there was no remedy but to relay the sewer. This has been done and an inspection chamber placed at its junction with the Chapel-street sewer, and two gullies have been put in. The total length of sewers dealt with during the year is 1,200ft., at a cost of £113.

DRAINAGE.

The sanitary arrangements at the Wesleyan School have been reconstructed. The National School has also had some improvements made. The various drains in the town have never been systematically tested, but are dealt with when defects are discovered; in this manner 11 houses have had their drains relaid and 9 w.c.'s have been constructed. The drains are smoke tested, and joints made satisfactory before being covered in.

WATER SUPPLY.

Originally the town was entirely dependent on pumps and the public stream at Pipe Well; but in 1886 a private company was formed; a reservoir with a capacity for 50,000 gallons was built near Kelly Bray to accumulate water from the streams near by; mains, with fire plugs, laid throughout the town, and services laid on for persons who desired to use the water from this source. In 1892 a second reservoir was built of 30,000 gallons capacity, and water of exceptionally good quality was now being supplied through about 150 services. Although there is never any deficiency in amount at the lower levels, the higher ones suffer during periods of drought. This has excited comment from the Council and consideration from the Company, on many occasions, but during the year both Council and Company have resolutely set to work to overcome the difficulty, and the practical issue has been the purchase of valuable streams at Isacombe by the Company, which the Company confidently believe will produce an adequate supply for the town at all times; if so a progressive step of immense importance to public health will be accomplished.

TRADE PREMISES.

In the absence of any factories and workshops of any magnitude, the Act relating to them has not its full significance, but its principles and details are applied as far as practicable; 43 places are on the register, and have been found satisfactory as a whole. The nine bakehouses are in good order, the five slaughter-houses have made some improvements, but the surroundings of some leave much to be desired; dairies and cowsheds are better kept; within the town are 22 cowsheds accommodating about 110 cows,



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greater cleanliness and better drainage are noticeable and lime-washing is more frequently done.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Five cottages in Tilley-street have been closed as unfit for human habitation; one house has been partly rebuilt and extended, and many houses have had substantial repairs done. A noticeable feature during the year is the disposition for building new houses; this is on the Launceston-road. Here ten houses are in course of building; four are completed, one of which is occupied. These houses are being built strictly in accordance with exacting by-laws adopted by many large towns; they have the healthiest aspect for securing the maximum amount of sunshine, an unlimited amount of bracing moorland air, abundance of wholesome water and drainage, with sanitary arrangements of the most approved modern description. They should therefore prove most attractive to would-be residents desirous of obtaining healthy dwellings under the most healthy conditions. Near by are two other houses almost completed, to which the same remarks to a great extent apply. The working classes are still in need of more and better cottages; none having been built during the year, it is to be hoped that the above houses will be of some benefit indirectly. Cases of overcrowding occasionally occur, and are dealt with as well as circumstances permit; this is rarely if ever a simple matter, when house accommodation, wages and number of children are taken into consideration.

There is one common lodging-house registered, and inspected frequently; it is very clean and well kept.

PUBLIC HOUSES.

The registered public houses are in a satisfactory state; during the past three years the outdoor sanitary arrangements have been entirely reconstructed, and the results are highly commendable to the owners. It is gratifying to notice in the workmanship connected with the flushing appliances that the finely-finished plumbing by skilled workmen is a marked contrast to the work some years ago. It may not be out of place to observe that these urinals, etc., are private property, and not for the indiscriminate use of the public; as no public urinal exists at present, this much-needed want is a matter which should certainly appeal to the consideration of the Council.

SCAVENGING.

The removal of house refuse is undertaken by the Authority, and carried out satisfactorily. Nuisances, in the majority of cases, are dealt with informally and abated promptly; although there is still a tendency to allow deposits to remain an unnecessary length of time, there is an improvement in their removal. Pig-keeping is conducted in a less offensive manner. During the dry summer months we experienced the dust raising propensities of motor-cars, which in Fore-street was almost intolerable; the road dust raised by wheel traffic carries into the atmosphere germs of every description, and they often remain in suspension for a considerable period, and if unattended to might be followed by consequences prejudicial to health; the inevitable remedy of watering the streets cannot, I think, be much longer delayed.

*The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889 & Part III
Public Health (Amendment) Act 1890 have been adopted
By-laws in existence are in relation to nuisances
Common lodging houses & new buildings.*

I am Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

H. Davis Junr

Insr. Off. of Health

Urban Dist. Council, Callington.

